nkdf

Nechako-Kitamaat
Development Fund Society

2012 – 2013
Annual Report

March 31, 2013

NKDF ANNUAL REPORT

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1. Report From The Chair

May, 29 2013

Chair's Annual Report

The 2012 – 2013 fiscal year was indeed as busy and productive as ever.

Firstly, thanks again to our outgoing Directors for their commitment, expertise and thoughtful contribution to our Board: Keith Federink and Rise Johansen.

Welcome to our new Directors: John Amos, Janice Baker and Ray Klingspohn. I hope you are ready to "roll up your sleeves" for the benefit of all the communities in the investment area. Thanks to Board Resourcing and all those who assisted with these government appointments.

For the fiscal year NKDF approved 14 projects for a total of $513,394 in grant funding. This brings the total amount of funds granted since inception in 1999 to $7,760,737. The grant funding for the upcoming year will provide another $500,000 to the communities in the investment area.

A sampling of the projects receiving funding over the past year are: District of Vanderhoof ice arena upgrade; Village of Burns Lake downtown revitalization; Fraser Lake Saddle Club agility park; BC Forage Council emerging markets and the Southside Seniors Housing Society site clearing.

The Board can clearly see the importance and value of all the projects whether large or small and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people behind these projects bringing them to successful conclusion.

I also would like to thank all Board members for their time, energy and thoughtful contribution to the board. A few of the administrative tasks they put their hearts into this year were the community consultations, an evaluation framework and an investment policy review. I hope you take the time to read the Annual Report to see how these decisions have been implemented.

It is with a heavy heart that I must bid adieu to the Board. As of May 30th, I will tender my resignation due to medical reasons. I have certainly enjoyed working as a Board member, meeting many of the community members, public, project proponents, government representatives and our Manager over the past four years. I trust the Board will carry on the valuable work it is doing and I look forward to reading about future projects in our local news.

Thank you and best wishes for the future.

Original Signed by:

Rosanne Murray
Chair

2. Society Overview

2.1 Mandate

The Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund (NKDF) Society's funding programs are designed to support sustainable economic activity in northern communities affected by the Kitimat-Kemano project and by the creation of the Nechako Reservoir. The NKDF Society spends the income from its long-term investments on programs and projects that meet each community's goals for economic development and community stability.

2.2 Background of the Fund

In 1997, the Government of British Columbia and Alcan Aluminum Limited each contributed $7.5 million to create the BC-Alcan Northern Development Fund. This BC-Alcan Agreement settled the legal issues between Alcan Aluminum Limited and the BC Government that arose from cancellation of the Kemano Completion Project. In January 1998 an advisory Board for the Northern Development Fund was formed. Its job was to advise the government on how the Fund should be run to stimulate economic growth. In April 1998, the legislature passed Bill 5, the "BC-Alcan Northern Development Fund Act."

Enabled by this Act, and by the recommendations of the advisory Board, the NKDF Society was incorporated on August 18, 1999. The Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training appoints Board members to represent the communities of the Nechako-Kitamaat area.

2.3 Investment Area

The investment area for the NKDF is normally limited to those communities with evidence of impacts from Alcan's Nechako Reservoir and Kemano power project. We encourage applications from local governments and legally incorporated non-profit organizations serving the following communities:

Kitamaat Village	Village of Burns Lake	Nadleh Whut'en Band
Southside	Burns Lake Band	Fort Fraser
Nee Tahi Buhn Band	Lake Babine Nation	District of Vanderhoof
Cheslatta Carrier Nation	Stellat'en First Nation	Saik'uz First Nation
Skin Tyee Band	Village of Fraser Lake	

Applications may be accepted from other areas of Northwestern BC, provided the listed communities receive direct economic benefits from the project and demonstrate their support for the project.

2.4 *Guiding Principles of the Fund*

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	The NKDF will invest in community economic development projects and/or programs that are supported by the community, as long as they do not subsidize private business.
JOB CREATION & ENHANCEMENT	Creating new jobs and enhancing existing jobs are priorities of the NKDF.
SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT	A priority of the Fund will be to support long term employment - both full time and seasonal.
COMMUNITY INTERRELATIONSHIPS	The Fund recognizes the value of interrelationships between communities. Consideration will be given to proposals from outside the Nechako Region and Kitamaat Village if they demonstrate a benefit to those areas.
CLEAR AND ACCESSIBLE	The Fund will have policies and programs that are accessible with clearly defined evaluation criteria.
FIRST NATIONS' PARTICIPATION	First Nations' participation in the Fund will not prejudice the First Nation land claim process.
LOCAL CONTROL	The majority of NKDF Directors will reside in the investment area. The Board will determine the ongoing management of the Fund consistent with provincial government policy.
BENEFITTING FUND	The Fund is intended to create benefits through sustainable community economic development. It is not intended to be compensation for those who believe themselves to have been negatively affected by the Kitimat-Kemano Project, the creation of the Nechako Reservoir or the cancellation of the Kemano Completion Project.
COOPERATIVE VENTURES	The Fund can be utilized in cooperative ventures along with other funding sources.
NO DUPLICATION	The Fund will not duplicate but may augment existing economic development programs.

Of the original $15 million, $5 million was provided to NKDF to be used as a working fund to invest in grant programs. The remaining $10 million of the original $15 million was placed into a legacy fund with the goal of investing and growing the fund to $15 million, and the income from the legacy fund to be used to finance NKDF grant programs into the future.

Fund investments are managed by the provincial government, through the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation, a provincial Crown Corporation. Monies of the Northern Development Fund—to be used in support of the programs of the NKDF Society—are in investment vehicles which are generally conservative but which also provide some opportunities for growth.

2.5 Society Management

The NKDF Society is governed by a northern-based Board of government appointees who live in the investment area and represent a range of interests. Board seats during the past year were held by:

- Dwight Magee, Rio Tinto Alcan Inc.
- Greg Goodwin, Province of BC
- Shannon Eakin, Burns Lake (Secretary/Treasurer)
- Janice Baker, Vanderhoof
- John Amos, Kitamaat Village
- Keith Federink, Vanderhoof
- Ray Klingspohn, Vanderhoof
- Rise Johansen, Southside
- Rosanne Murray, Burns Lake (Chair)
- Mike Robertson, Southside
- Wayne Salewski, Vanderhoof

Management services are provided through a contract with Dan Boudreau dba Macrolink Action Plans Inc., based in Prince George, British Columbia.

2.6 Government Relations

Since the Society's incorporation in 1999, the provincial government has transferred $6.8 million from the Northern Development Fund to the NKDF Society for its operations and programs. The balance of the original $15 million remains under the control of the BC Investment Management Corporation. (See financial statements for detailed balances of the Society's accounts.)

The NKDF Board of Directors reports to the Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training. The Minister is responsible for approving the Society's annual business plan and for appointing all Society Directors. This reporting relationship ensures that the Society's actions are in line with current provincial government priorities and direction.

In addition to the Society's relationship with the province, and in order to coordinate work on projects of mutual interest, the Society also has relationships with federal government ministries and agencies such as Service Canada, Western Economic Diversification and Indian and Northern Affairs.

3. Goals and Achievements

This section includes information from the formal evaluation form completed by Society Directors at the end of each fiscal year, where criteria are judged on a score of one to four, from poor to excellent. The goal is to achieve scores in the top two categories (good and excellent), and to develop strategies to improve in areas that scored fair or poor.

3.1 Operations

During the 2012-2013 fiscal, the Board of Directors proposed a strategic shift to prioritize sustainable economic development projects and proposals, engaging communities, First Nations and stakeholders in setting the Society's future direction and evaluating and communicating the effectiveness of past investments of the NKDF fund. For the interim, the NKDFS board will continue to focus on the following primary areas: Capacity Building, Planning, Business Development, Recreational-Social, Community Infrastructure and Tourism, initiatives which will support sustainable economic development of the region and resilient communities.

Board Operations

There were four regular Board meetings this year and one conference call. The face-to-face meetings were held in Smithers, Burns Lake, Kitamaat Village, and Vanderhoof.

In the annual evaluation, Directors rated most aspects of the operations as good to excellent.

While conference calls are not ideal, they are still considered by most Directors to be the most effective way to conduct business during winter months. Directors were satisfied with the frequency of Board meetings and with the decision making process. Directors believe that the Board meetings provide an effective forum for healthy and open discussion and that the consensus method is working well for decision making. The Society benefits from a mix of Directors with various background experience and interests, and who work well together for the economic benefit of all communities in the investment area.

The Directors will focus on two main areas for the upcoming year:

1. Promote sustainable economic development in the NKDF investment area.
2. Support initiatives that attract investment in new or existing businesses, create new employment or stabilize existing employment.

Management Services

In the annual evaluation, Directors rated the Management Services as good to excellent. Directors are pleased with the flow of information, the quality of service for applicants and clients, and the increasing awareness of NKDF in the communities throughout the investment area.

The Manager has been effective at providing information during and between Board meetings, and this year will target getting Board packages to Directors earlier to allow more time to prepare for meetings. Applicants are well prepared by the Manager, which means they understand the NKDF requirements and criteria, which helps them to provide the information needed to enable Directors to make informed decisions.

The Manager will focus on three main areas for the upcoming year:

1. Maintain effective communications with all stakeholders.
2. Ensuring timely receipt of Director's Board Packages prior to meetings.
3. Support the strategic direction process undertaken by the Board.

3.2 Programs

Community Grant Program

The Society received a total of 19 new applications during the year and approved 14, totalling $513,394 for the entire investment area for the 2012-2013 fiscal.[1]

This year the majority of Directors rated the Community Grant Program as good to excellent, while it is felt by some there is room for improvement. In the upcoming year, Directors will use the input gathered from community stakeholders throughout the NKDF investment area to develop priorities and strategies.

Directors and the Manager will continue to promote the programs and endeavor to increase the uptake in the smaller communities. While NKDF Society continues to benefit from the increased recognition in the local media across the investment area, Directors and Management will increase communications with local governments and constituents throughout the catchment area.

The Directors focus on safeguarding the fund by making informed decisions that maintain the highest value to government, business people and communities throughout northern British Columbia. Throughout the year the Manager and Directors encourage and welcome feedback from all stakeholders.

With regard to programs, the Directors and Manager will focus on three main areas for the upcoming year:

1. Explore investment strategies that bring higher returns on investments.
2. Continue to reach out to community organizations and elected officials for project ideas.
3. Continue evaluating the effectiveness of the grant program.

Community Legacy Fund Program

The Community Legacy was established in 1999, when $10 million of the Society's funds were invested to grow and provide funding for NKDF programs and projects in perpetuity. The Community Legacy Fund is currently held at the BC Investment Management Corporation and the fair market value at March 31, 2013 is $15,898,644.

[1] Detailed descriptions of all 2012-2013 approved projects are in section 4.

4. Grants Program Details

The Society approved $[redacted] in new grants this year, bringing the total approved funding to $[redacted][1] since inception. The following table shows grant proposal statistics for this year and all prior years since the inception of the fund:

Year	Proposals Received	Proposals Approved	Proposals Not Approved	Total $ Committed	Total $ Paid
2012-2013	18	14	4	$315,394	$823,414
2011-2012	24	21	3	$399,639	$391,746
2010-2011	27	21	6	$587,940	$562,519
2009-2010	27	20	7	$737,998	$577,207
2008-2009	23	17	6	$711,500	$504,609
2007-2008	24	26	8	$730,911	$442,262
2006-2007	24	17	7	$868,698	$1,173,340
2005-2006	24	19	5	$823,160	$805,151
2004-2005	24	20	4	$389,859	$516,059
2003-2004	45	31	14	$1,172,097	$484,779
2002-2003	8	7	1	$96,195	$224,894
2001-2002	20	11	9	$516,991	$245,836
2000-2001	13	6	7	$137,534	$149,054
1999-2000	9	5	3	$98,021	$25,000
Total	318	234	84	$7,769,737	$6,470,497

The following table summarizes proposals not approved during this fiscal year:

Project	Date	Requested	Reason for Decline
Food Producer Directory	29-May-12	$1,228	Weak link to economic development
Community Promotion Plan	29-May-12	$65,000	Did not demonstrate need for funds
Artist Marketing Network	29-May-12	$38,407	No clear path to sustainability
Daycare Upgrade	12-Dec-12	$97,357	Project not a priority for NHDP

The table on the next page summarizes the grant projects approved and/or in progress during the 2012-2013 fiscal year, followed by brief descriptions of each project.

[1] The high ratio of approved projects is due in part to the fact that all projects undergo pre-screening to ensure they fit the NHDP mandate prior to accepting applications.

Recipient	Project	Approved	Approved	Expended
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

6. Project Descriptions Sorted by Location (East to West)

6.1 [illegible] Projects

[illegible] Area Campsite [illegible]

[illegible] of [illegible]

The purpose of this project is to make key recreational infrastructure safe for current users, as well as making it attractive as a venue for regional and commercial events including [illegible] and Whitby Games & Fitness Package. To that end, the proposed facilities [illegible] upgrade the visitor experience in this area and to make the facility safer and more appealing for user groups.

Dunsmuir Park [illegible]

Dunsmuir Electric Development Society

The Directors of the Dunsmuir Electric Development Society (DEDS) advertise for seed to develop a strategic business case that will enable the Society to strengthen its social enterprise and be a solid foundation for the business models underpin operations in surrounding communities. The funds approved by DEDS will enable planning to consolidate a concise [illegible] of Dunsmuir/Ambleton to explore the value of and potential for commercial and other support agencies, as well as opportunities for linking the business model out to neighbouring communities and development of a detailed action plan.

Dunsmuir Community Hall [illegible]

Dunsmuir Valley Sporting Association

Dunsmuir Valley Sporting Association (DVSA) proposes to construct a [illegible] square training and recreation hall. The hall will be located at DVSA property west of Dunsmuir. The DVSA facilities[illegible] is used by a [illegible] range of user groups, including cricket, country dance, triathlon, tennis, piano-forte, drama, rowing, club sports athletic, and [illegible] athletics.

Trap Development [illegible]

Dunsmuir Valley Sporting Association

The Trap Club wishes to purchase new automated trap targets throughout DVA Sporting Commercial Targets, and DVA Valley Shoot Trap, Amateur Trap, Cycle Fit Additional machinery to operate the throwers and to manage scoring of round. The equipment, consisting [illegible] and new manual throwers, also maintains Sporting Cycle Fit Shoot Trap while meeting their aim to ensure it is expanded that the increased capacity will be more efficient and position the Club to attract visitors and visitors to the community. The project enjoys financial or in-kind support from club members, current DVA Trustees, and in-kind by Sporting.

[redacted]

[illegible]

[illegible] ..... [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] ..... [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] ..... [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] ..... [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Wind Energy Evaluation - Phase 1 — $54,000

Stellat'en First Nation

Beginning with a strategic planning session in 2007, the Stellat'en First Nation community has selected Wind Energy as a top economic development priority. Stellat'en First Nation wishes to complete a detailed wind resource evaluation to determine whether a wind energy operation might be feasible in the area. The resource assessment will be contracted to a technical expert in wind analysis. This project includes five steps to complete an analysis of the wind resource on the Stellat'en First Nation territory and a scoping study of financing and partnership models for project development. The Stellat'en First Nation will work with The Pembina Institute to implement the project. This project is funded in partnership by NKDF, Stellat'en First Nation, and NWC.

6.3 *Burns Lake / Southside Projects*

Grassy Hall Upgrade — $34,663

Grassy Plains Community Hall Association

Grassy Plains Hall is a well-used facility that enables local groups to host fund raisers, meetings, funerals, wedding receptions and family gatherings. The Hall is key to community activities for the entire Southside area. The applicant's mission is to provide a well maintained, safe venue for Southside community residents to host their fund raisers, meetings, funerals, wedding receptions and family gatherings. The hall seats 200, complete with banquet tables and chairs. Proponent hopes to make improvements to the storage area and the male and female washroom facilities. The funding would be to build a 12' x 20' storage facility with a covered walkway which would house all the tables, chairs, barbecue's, lawn tractor and other hall equipment. The storage facility would be connected to the main hall building by a covered walkway with access through double doors to facilitate easy equipment moving. The plan is to upgrade both washrooms to be wheelchair accessible.

Walking Trail — $4,900

Burns Lake Soccer Club

The Burns Lake Soccer Club (BLSC) is 16 years old and has an active program with 30 coaches and 250 kids, ages 4-17. Part of the club's vision has been to improve the fields and the environment surrounding the soccer field, which are located in Burns Lake behind CNC and next to the high school. On the main field, there is narrow strip of land that parallels the CN railway tracks that has grown in with weeds and is largely abandoned. BLSC wishes to develop this area into a simple walking trail that would start at the field entrance, wind its way through this area, and out at Saul Creek. The project has two phases – 1) construction of the trail and 2) planting young saplings to border the trail. This approval is for funding to construct the trail - Phase I of this project.

Trout Creek Hall — $20,000

Colleymount Recreation Commission

The Colleymount Recreation Commission (CRC) is making improvements to the Trout Creek Hall, including upgrading the kitchen, improving the energy-efficiency, and other upgrades. Due to the Babine Forest Products disaster, CRC cannot ask the local business community to support the project. Trout Creek Hall is used for many events, including gatherings, weddings, funerals, bazaars, plant and yard sales, poker rides, dances, card games, meetings, and as a polling station during elections.

Hall Renovations — $20,000

Decker Lake Recreation Commission

The Decker Lake Recreation Commission (DLRC) completed energy efficient upgrades and improvements to the Decker Lake Hall in 2009. The upgrades have reduced operating costs. Building upon the past work done, this project includes a safety component, upgrades to the kitchen, interior design improvements, and construction of a storage area for tables and chairs.

Electronic Signs — $10,000

Burns Lake & District Chamber of Commerce

The Burns Lake Beautification Committee will replace the older, well-used banner with a new electronic sign to communicate with locals and visitors to the area. The electronic sign will display advertising for commercial and non-profit chamber members and non-members.

Capital Purchases — $60,000

Burns Lake Medical Clinic Society

The Burns Lake Medical Clinic Society (BLMCS) was formed to stop the decline of services in the community and to provide quality care for patients. Residents of Lakes District are finding the current medical services to be unacceptable. To address the problems, BLMCS proposes to establish a non-profit medical clinic in Burns Lake. This project includes the purchase of equipment essential to the clinic's operation. Revenues will be generated through the Fee-for-Service model and split between doctors and BLMCS.

Stearns Creek Canyon Trail — $22,500

Burns Lake Mountain Bike Association

BLMBA, a past recipient of NKDF funding, plans to construct the Stearns Creek Canyon Trail, linking the Bike Park to the Stearns Creek Canyon and the top of Boer Mountain (and an existing network of trails). This application is for assistance with completion of Phase 2 and 3. Phase 2 will link the east end of Long Lake to the Stearns Creek Canyon. Phase 3 will link Stearns Creek Canyon to the top of Boer Mountain. The creation of this portion of the Stearns Creek Canyon Trail will create new trail infrastructure to challenge both locals and visitors. The trail will be built according to Whistler Trail Standards, which is the accepted standard for Recreation Sites and Trails BC authorized trails.

Chief Louie Paddle Company — $95,000

Cheslatta Carrier Nation

This is a Cheslatta Carrier Nation (CCN) research and development initiative with a main goal of determining the market feasibility of Chief Louie Paddle Company. During the 2007-2008 fiscal Cheslatta Carrier Nation received a Western Diversification (CEDI) grant to explore opportunities for harvesting, processing and marketing the waterwood (timber recovered from the Nechako Reservoir) and beetle kill timber, as well as to address infrastructure deficiencies. To date, CCN has successfully started to produce paddles and a growing line of craft and gift items, including functional and promotional paddles, spirit feathers, drum frames, carved canoes and key fobs. The purpose of this feasibility phase of the project is to perfect and streamline the current product line, develop and add new viable products, as well as to design and implement a marketing strategy.

Memorial Centre Restoration — $40,000

Lake Babine Nation

The Margaret Patrick Memorial Centre, built in 1975, was originally the Lake Babine Nation Administration Office, repurposed in 1999 to be rented out for a number of community functions.

The hall is used for numerous events held in the community, youth recreation, rented for public and private functions, traditional functions/events. The hall is in need of repairs and improvements, including: the kitchen, bathrooms, office area, flooring and air circulation. The improvements will accommodate continued and increased usage of the hall.

Beacon Theatre Retrofit — $10,850

Lakes District Film Society

Lakes District Film Society (LDFS) was formed in 2009 to support presentation, appreciation, and production of film in the Lakes District. Currently at 92 members, the Society has purchased the Beacon Theatre and proceeded to tackle a number of upgrades to the facility, including replacing 3 furnaces, installation of a POS system, purchasing a computer system, purchase and installation of a Satellite system, and purchase of a security system.

Community Signs — $15,000

Lakes Economic Development Association

Lakes Economic Development Association is approved for funding to assist the downtown Burns Lake revitalization project, comprised of creating and replacing the easterly and westerly "Welcome to Burns Lake" community signs, as well as adding a 3rd entrance sign south of town.

Community Health — $12,000

Nee Tahi Buhn First Nation

In this endeavour to set up hot-beds and greenhouses at each Band's location, Nee Tahi Buhn Band represents itself, Skin Tyee Nation, and Cheslatta Carrier Nation. The project aspires to grow and supply the three First Nation communities on the south side of Francois Lake with locally gown vegetables and fruits. On the capacity building side, they plan to teach skills such as meal preparation, canning, storing and eating healthy foods. A part of the project includes education in nutrition, with the support of health professionals from Carrier Sekani Family Services and the Southside Wellness Centre.

Lodge Upgrade — $15,442

Omineca Ski Club

Omineca Ski Club (OSC) plans to renovate the Ski Lodge and proactively market the facility. Work needed on the Lodge includes: flooring, acoustic sound tiles, additional speakers, curtains/blinds, and paint. Once the Lodge is completed, OSC plans to develop a brochure highlighting the features and Ski Club trails, as well as pushing the facility for rentals, and revamp the website and develop a larger social media strategy to attract tourists, skiers, and businesses.

Pager Repeater System — $28,004

Regional District of Bulkley Nechako

Regional District of Bulkley Nechako was approved for funding assistance to install a Pager Repeater System to serve the Southside area. The project consists of upgrading the Mount Verdun Repeater Tower, clearing trail and site near Danskin, installation of an 18 to 20 meter repeater tower at the Danskin site, constructing a small equipment storage building, installing solar power at the Danskin site, and purchasing 12 pagers for the Southside Volunteer Fire Department. The Danskin tower is necessary to boost the reception and pager coverage across the entire protection area and link the pager service to the 9-1-1 service.

Burns Lake Legion — $12,662

Regional District of Bulkley Nechako

The Burns Lake Legion (in existence for 65 years) plans to renovate its facility and proposes a project that will reduce operating costs, update the interior, improve capital assets, and enable the organization to keep current clientele happy as well as attracting new patrons to the facility. This project includes: installation of vinyl siding, painting of the interior, insulation of the ceiling, installation of T-bar lighting system using T8 florescent tubes, installation of carpet and lino, and building and installation of new table tops. Also included in the project are purchases of a gas cook stove, new tables and chairs, a public address system, and a changeable outdoor advertising sign.

Hall Upgrade — $8,354

Rose Lake Community Club

The Rose Lake Community Club (RLCC) started renovating the Hall in 2009, and is now positioned to complete the project. The Club has already installed energy-efficient upgrades, installed a wheelchair accessible washroom, completed a 12' x 30' addition to the hall, and drilled a well and installed running water. This project will complete the final phase, including: insulating the perimeter of the hall, painting the ceilings, refinishing the original wooden floor, painting the interior, and installing linoleum in the kitchen.

Site Clearing — $15,000

Southside Seniors Housing Society

Southside Seniors Housing Society (SSHS) is building an independent housing facility at Hospital Point, Southbank BC. Through a previous NKDF grant, the proponent successfully completed the land, geotechnical and topographical survey, which showed Hospital Point as an ideal building site for the senior's housing facility. In this phase of the project, SSHS will hire contractors to clear and prepare the site, and upgrade the existing road. This will involve the clearing and removal of trees and bushes as well as leveling the building site.

Safety Equipment — $15,000

Southside Volunteer Fire Department Society

The SVFD is proposing to purchase 15 sets of Wildland Coveralls for fighting grass and brush fires. The project also includes the purchase of 4 communication radios and 4 broadband antennas. The radios would be installed in each of the four SVFDS trucks. The radios will have enough room for all the channels required by the department to operate. SVFD members respond to structural, grass and wildland fires, and motor vehicle accidents within their protection district. The department also responds to calls outside their district if requested to do so by the RCMP, the BC Ambulance Service, or the Provincial Emergency Program. Effective and reliable communication equipment is essential to the success of the department and the safety of residents. The current communication radios are old. The oldest radios only have 6-channels.

Economic Activity — $27,500

Tweedsmuir Rod & Gun Club

This infrastructure improvement project will increase economic activity in the area, reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and increase accessibility for those with mobility issues. The project will create new economic opportunities for the Tweedsmuir Park rod & Gun Club, as well as for businesses in Burns Lake. The project includes the construction of a rifle range building, construction of a covered main entrance and wheelchair ramp, and insulating the roof and installing new shingles.

Arena Upgrades — $43,926

Village of Burns Lake – Regional District of Bulkley Nechako

This proposal arises from a feasibility analysis that was completed to determine which improvements are needed to the Tom Forsyth Memorial Arena, and prioritize those improvements. The Arena caters to at least 15 user groups, is host to 14 winter tournaments and 3 summer events – each event attracts approximately 160 visitors to the community. NKDF approved funding to assist with improvements to the arena according to the priorities identified in the feasibility study.

Downtown Revitalization — $100,000

Village of Burns Lake

The Village of Burns Lake (VoBL) is making improvements to the downtown area. The proponent is sharing costs with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), who plans to spend $14 million on highway improvements in the Lakes District. Boulevard Transportation Group has been working with MOTI to prepare detailed designs. The Downtown Revitalization project in Phase 1, will invigorate and refresh the aesthetics on Highway 16, from the junctions at Centre Street, through to 5th Avenue. Using a combination of features including new pavement, curb bulbs, landscaping and trees, First Nations artwork, and new pedestrian crosswalks, the phased revitalization plan will compliment and support local economic development as one response to the Babine Mill tragedy.

Lakes District Multi-Sport Facility — $40,000

Village of Burns Lake

This project consists of expanding and connecting the existing arena and curling rink, creating a 10,000 square foot addition to the existing recreation facilities. The expansion will offer a squash court, climbing wall, children's indoor play area, work-out gym, equipment rental space, multi-purpose community area, training space, recreation programming space, event hosting and sport development space. The new expansion will meet the community's need for a year round recreation centre that is open to all residents and recreation groups.

Recreational & Economic Growth — $46,730

Village of Burns Lake

Village of Burns Lake plans to increase economic activity and participation at Spirit Square and the Tom Forsyth Arena by making improvements at each facility. Spirit Square and the Tom Forsyth Arena encompass an area with recreational opportunities for ice sports, water sports, skateboarding, curling, tennis, self-directed exercise, and free camping. For the Arena, the project includes the purchase of two regulation hockey nets and 9-foot dividers to replace the currently used 30 cm, foam-dividers—which will allow two teams (ice or no ice) to play simultaneously, increasing capacity. Project also includes purchase and installation of solar lighting at Spirit Square—which produces no greenhouse gases while increasing the operating hours and reducing the cost of lighting. As well, the proponent will purchase kayaks, canoes and skateboards to rent to locals and tourists.

5.4 Kitamaat Projects

Kitamaat Village Beautification **$23,000**

Haisla Nation Council

Kitamaat Village Council was approved for funds to assist with a two-part project in Kitamaat Village, to build 4 bus shelters and a grave digging shed at the grave yard. The project will employ Haisla members to build the shelters.

Tsee-Motsa Trail **$13,223**

Haisla Nation Council

Haisla Nation Council plans to build a nature interpretive trail, including a bird viewing platform. The 2.5-kilometre Tsee-Motsta Nature Interpretive Trail starts at the MK Bay Marina and connects to Handerson Ranch. The trail is a traditional cultural trail used by Haisla people for harvesting plants, trapping animals, and other cultural purposes. The goals of the project are to remove hazards to improve safety, protect the environment, and increase signage to improve user access. The trail follows the shoreline and includes a number of viewpoints on Douglas Channel and Minette Bay Estuary, and is representative of the coastal rainforest ecosystem. The trail is for non-motorized use only, and used by many hikers of different ages, including walkers, runners, and elderly people. The project includes erecting 12 signs for plant ID and two signs at the trailhead for general description of the trail.

5.5 Regional Projects

Emerging Markets **$10,000**

BC Forage Council

The purpose of the initiative is to complete an internal focused environmental scan with strategic recommendations and specific developmental opportunities that will enable Highway 16 producers to capitalize on emerging domestic and international markets. This pilot project will focus primarily on the Highway 16 region near Vanderhoof; however, if central interior producers begin to export significant volume the entire Cariboo central interior region will be impacted. The project will address only forages and processed forages. The perceived opportunity has emerged as a result of decreasing cow herd numbers, leaving ranchers with excess forages available to market as a cash crop. Along Highway 16 corridor there are approximately 200 farm operations that have either significantly down sized their beef herd and have excess forage available to market or already market forage. Within the Cariboo region there will be approximately 30 ranch operations that rely on forage that is imported from the Vanderhoof region. In total there will be approximately 230 operations directly benefiting from this project plus a greater number with indirect benefits.

Enterprising Artisans — $16,230

Community Futures of Nadina

This project is a partnership led by Community Futures of Nadina and including Cheslatta Carrier Nation, and Rio Tinto Alcan. Representatives from each partner will manage the project, which will draw on resources from a broader range of stakeholders and serve a broader group of participants, including First Nations groups both in and outside the NKDF investment area. The purpose of this project is to bring together artisans along the western corridor, create a brand, increase the profile of local artisans, and build a marketing and distribution system, including an online portal.

Grassroots Development Project — $10,000

Nechako-Kitamaat Development Fund Society

The purpose of the Grassroots Economic Development Opportunities Fund is to enable NKDF to facilitate project development at the community level while leveraging funding from outside the investment area. The idea behind this concept is to have funds available to assist constituents or applicants to turn their project ideas into living projects. The Grassroots Development funding is to assist applicants with locating potential funding agencies for projects and broader economic development related projects such as making training available that might not otherwise be offered in the communities in the NKDF investment area.

Farmer's Market Signage — $3,987

Regional District of Bulkley Nechako

Regional District of Bulkley Nechako (RDBN) began an Agriculture project in 2010 that included assisting Farmer's Markets operating within the region with advertising and training. In this project, RDBN plans to develop highway signage with a regional logo, and advertising banner, and the addition of Farmers' Market information to the RDBN website. The project includes all 8 Farmers' Markets in the region, but this application is for assistance with the 5 markets that are within the NKDF catchment area, including Vanderhoof, Fort Fraser, Lakes Public in Burns Lake, Heritage in Burns Lake, and Southside.

Image Bank — $12,662

Regional District of Bulkley Nechako

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) is developing a Digital Media Image Bank (Image Bank) to support tourism within the region. The image bank will include still photographs and video footage that can be accessed by partners to highlight the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. The RDBN and all participating communities within the region will have access and rights to the images to promote the area. The proponent anticipates that materials may be used for Websites, Social Media Sites, Northern BC Tourism and Tourism BC, Print Media, Television, Google maps and Hello BC. RDBN plans to gather images by hiring professional photographers and by hosting a contest for amateur photographers.

Highway 16 Billboard — $3,750

Southside Economic Development Association

SEDA plans to construct and erect a Highway 16 Billboard with the sign portion to be 10 feet by 20 feet, framed by logs salvaged from the shores of Ootsa Lake. Attached to the log will be a wood carving of a bear on one side corner. Southside residents in favour of promoting tourism often cite lack of visibility on Highway 16 as a barrier to attracting more tourists to the Southside. This project is a step toward increasing traveller's awareness of Southside assets and beauty. Private property has been donated for placement of this sign approximately 5 KM west of Burns Lake on the north side of Highway 16.

Takysie Adventure Site — $20,000

Southside Economic Development Association

SEDA plans to create a place on the Southside where families can go for recreation. The project is located on Takysie Lake. Currently there's an old camping ground, broken boat launch, and dirty beach. The proponent plans to clean the beach and repair the boat launch, and to make the area accessible to everyone, as well as adding a public bouldering & climbing wall for families, and a covered BBQ area. The proponent would also like to create a walking trail which will have connections to an existing heritage trail. The idea is to provide a space in the community for families to gather or tourists to come spend a day in the Southside.

6. Financial Highlights at March 31, 2013

2012-2013 Income and Expenses	Budgeted	Actual
Administration Expenses	[illegible]	[illegible]
Grant Payments	[illegible]	[illegible]
Investment Income	[illegible]	[illegible]

Note re administration expenses: Manager Fees were $93,635; Manager travel costs were $4859; Director Honoraria totalled $8,694; Travel and Meeting Costs were $6,551 and the balance of $13,511 was for Accounting, Advertising and Office Expenses.

Note re grants: The Society approved a total of $213,334 in new grants for the year.

Note re investment income: NKDF investments are held at Integris Credit Union in Vanderhoof and with Phillips Hager and North (PHN).

Account Balances as of March 31, 2013	
Cash and Term Deposits - Administration	[illegible]
Cash and Term Deposits - Grant	[illegible]
Short Term Investments	[illegible]
Accrued Interest & Receivables	[illegible]
Minus accounts payable	[illegible]
Net Financial Assets	[illegible]
Less Grant Commitments Outstanding	[illegible]
Total NKDF Net Assets Less Grant Commitments	[illegible]

Restricted assets: The balance of the original $15 million dollar contributions from Alcan and the BC Government are held in the Northern Development Fund, managed by the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation. The market value of this investment account as of March 31, 2013 was $15,898,644.

Annual Audit: The annual audit of the NKDF was completed in May 2013 by Edmison-Metz Chartered Accountants (Smithers). The audited statements are attached as Appendix II.

Appendix A: Audited Financial Statements